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DIS-5630
COPY 1 OF 2

25X1A

12 November 1958

SUBJECT: Flight Testing, Stability and Control

TO: Contracting Officer

OK *11/4*

The Air Force has experienced four low altitude fatal aircraft accidents wherein loss of control was determined to be a contributing factor. In addition, there have been three high altitude accidents wherein the causes were unknown. In one such case, however, it is known that the pilot reported his aircraft out of control. Whether loss of control was a cause or a resultant effect is unknown. Numerous non-fatal landing accidents are also attributable to the poor landing and stall characteristics of the aircraft.

It is the opinion of the WSPO, as well as others within the FOG organization, that insufficient flight test stability and control data exists. Accordingly, LAC has been directed to accomplish additional stability and control instrumented flight tests.

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[redacted] AFFTC, Project cleared, has been designated Project monitor or this effort. A flight test outline is being devised by LAC through coordination with [redacted] will coordinate closely with [redacted] on all aspects of this 25X1A flight test program.

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Upon completion of the testing and data reduction phases, [redacted] will review the results and recommend changes to present pilot procedures, the appropriate manuals and written instructions and/or aircraft modifications if deemed appropriate.

The scope of this program is not envisioned as major. It should prove to be of minor magnitude and accomplished without adverse affect to other work in progress at North Base. It is requested that aircraft number [redacted] be authorized for use in this program and that costs incurred incident to the test program be jointly shared. All applicable results will, of course, be incorporated in all handbooks and will be of mutual benefit to Project and FOG.

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